



2012 – 2013

METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

1. **GOAL ONE: GRADUATE!/META NUMERO UNO: GRADUAR!** – This initiative to involve the community in raising Pima County's high school graduation rates and student academic performance provided the structure for all activities listed below as part of GOAL ONE: GRADUATE!/META NUMERO UNO: GRADUAR! 2010-2011 Action Plan.
2. **REGIONAL COLLEGE ACCESS CENTER (RCAC):** An information and referral center designed to serve Tucson and Pima County students and families with a special outreach to students from low-income households or who are the first in their family to attend post secondary education programs. The RCAC offers FREE one-on-one advising in English and Spanish for postsecondary education planning. The RCAC website (www.metedu.org/rcac) offers access to AZCIS (Arizona Career Information System) for career exploration and college planning, and Collegetoolkit.com for scholarship searches and financial planning tools. The information on the RCAC website is local and national, and also includes academic and test preparation resources for students K-16. The RCAC had 4,800 unique visitors to the website and 248 contacts from the public for college planning information for the 2012-2013 school year; also 282 counselor accounts, and 2,457 student accounts, as well as 7 Student Ambassadors and 5 Library sites.
3. **YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL/TUCSON TEEN CONGRESS (YAC/TTC) -** Composed of 497 middle and high school students from public, private and charter schools throughout Pima County, the YAC/TTC developed the Career Fair for the League of United American Citizens (LULAC) Youth Leadership Conference. This energetic teen group also participated in collaborations with other community organizations, such as the Transition Fair, The Key to Employment for the 21st Century Workshop, the Dorothy Finley Outstanding Teen Citizen Awards, the Goal One: Graduate! Poster Contest, and the Teen Town Hall.
4. **CRYSTAL APPLE AWARDS CELEBRATION** - Honored for their contributions to education this year were: **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** – Dr. Vicki Balentine; **TEACHER AWARDS** – Rebecca Cavazos, Borton Primary Magnet School, Tucson USD; Jose Snook, Flowing Wells Junior High School, Flowing Wells USD; Katrina Herrera, Sierra Middle School, Sunnyside USD; **CORPORATE AWARD** – CenturyLink; **EDUCATION ADVOCATE AWARD** – Dea Salter; **COUNSELOR AWARD** – Leatanya Koppa, Marana High School; and **YOUTH AWARD** – Jennifer Sanchez, Alta Vista High School.

5. **ACADEMY WITHOUT WALLS (AWW)** - This innovative program provides high school students academic and workplace training in high tech fields in preparation for 21st Century careers. Funding for internships was provided by the City of Tucson. To date 464 students have participated in the AWW.
6. **GOAL ONE: GRADUATE!/META NUMERO UNO: GRADUAR! POSTER CONTEST** - Students from Pima County schools participated in this contest and the winners received scholarship awards at the Crystal Apple Awards Luncheon. Winners were: Hancel Bueno, Laguna Elementary School, Flowing Wells USD, and Samantha Daly, Centennial Elementary School, Flowing Wells USD.
7. **THE KEY TO EMPLOYMENT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY WORKSHOP** - Students and educators attended this annual event on January 31, 2013, at the University of Arizona. and which was supported by the Thomas R. Brown Foundation, UA Research & Economic Development, Industrial Tool Die & Engineering, University Physicians Health Care, Rosemont Copper, Tucson Electric Power, and others. There were 42 Exhibitors representing high tech and other industries, as well as University of Arizona and Pima Community College representatives. Over 440 students and teachers attended.
8. **i3 INNOVATION GRANT – THE WISDOM PROJECT**
The Metropolitan Education Commission (MEC), in partnership with the Baboquivari School District, has been awarded a four year highly competitive U.S. Department of Education Investing in Innovation (i3) funding of three million dollars. MEC was one of only 23 recipients out of 587 applicants, and received the highest score of those selected. MEC's dedication to assist youth in reaching their educational goals extends far into Arizona. The grant will fund the Wisdom Project- High school completion & readiness initiative serving students of the Baboquivari Unified School District (BUSD). The Wisdom Project is designed to transform Baboquivari Middle School, Baboquivari High School and alternative sites into high-performing schools, each with a rigorous college preparation curriculum. It brings the resources from Pima County and Tucson through the MEC to respond to the needs within BUSD. Additionally, youth and young adult school dropouts will have the opportunity to resume their studies through alternative education; youth within the Juvenile Detention Center will have opportunities to access educational services as well.
This funding extends MEC programs including the Regional College Access Center, the Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress, and the Key to Employment for the 21st Century Symposium to BUSD. The award has already been cited in the Education Weekly and can be found on the U. S. Department of Education website.
9. **PIMA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS COLLABORATIVE**
As a city/county commission advocating for educational excellence in Pima County, the Metropolitan Education Commission invites all school districts in the county to join together in a network or "collaborative" promoting a postsecondary-focused culture. The collaborative members will rely on the Common Measures, developed by the National

College Access Network (NCAN) and the forthcoming Arizona College Access Network (AzCAN) Standards for Student Success as guidelines for defining and organizing their work in postsecondary access/success/career readiness. Both the Common Measures and the AzCAN Standards for Student Success are based on research into educational best practices.

The purpose of the collaborative will be to align Pima County school districts on postsecondary access/success and career readiness and to increase effective delivery of individual district programs through collaboration among the districts. To bring about this alignment, the collaborative agrees to use the Regional College Access Center (RCAC) as a key tool in promoting postsecondary access/success/career readiness. The collaborative will seek funding to support use of the RCAC as well as strategies that complement this tool. The overarching goal of the collaborative members is to ensure that all of their students are prepared for postsecondary education and know how this education relates to the world of work.

10. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES -

Pima County Workforce Investment Board Youth Council
LULAC Youth Leadership Conference Career Fair
Pima & Santa Cruz Counties Tech Prep Consortium
Pima County Business & Education Roundtable
Teen Town Hall
United Way Youth Development Coalition
FAIR For Educators
U.S. 2010 Census
Cesar E. Chavez March for Peace & Dignity
School Infrastructure Committee
Sunnyside USD's Digital Advantage Program
Arizona College Access Coalition
Solutions Through Higher Education
Expect More Arizona
Youth On Their Own
Imagine Greater Tucson
Communities Putting Prevention to Work
Bio Sciences High School
National Student-Parent Mock Election
Five Communities Project
Superintendents Collaborative College Access & Success Project
Pima County Public Library College Access Project
Communities In Schools